

CHAPTER 7

WHAT YOU CAN DO AFTER THE COURT FILES ITS OPINION

After an opinion has been issued, there are a number of steps you can take asking the Court of Appeal and/or the Supreme Court to reexamine the case. This chapter discusses some of those, including, how to file a *Petition for Rehearing* at the Court of Appeal and a *Petition for Review* in the Supreme Court of California. In addition, this chapter explains how the issuance of a remittitur marks the end of an appeal.

Petition for Rehearing

After the opinion in the appeal is filed, a party may file a *Petition for Rehearing* ([Sample Form S](#)) in the Court of Appeal. The petition for rehearing provides the party that has “lost” at the Court of Appeal with an opportunity to point out any factual errors, misstatements, or omissions that the Court of Appeal may have made in their opinion. There is an automatic right to rehearing if the Court of Appeal makes a decision based on an issue that was not proposed or briefed by any party. (Government Code section 68081.) One does not need to petition for rehearing in the Court of Appeal before seeking review in the Supreme Court. However, as a policy, the Supreme Court accepts the statement of facts and issues as set out in the Court of Appeal opinion unless any alleged omission or misstatement of fact was brought to the Court of Appeal’s attention by a petition for rehearing. (CRC rule 8.500(c).)

The *Petition for Rehearing* must be served and filed within 15 days of the filing of the opinion, the order for publication, or the modification of the opinion if it changes the judgment. No opposition to the petition may be filed unless requested by the court. If the Court does not rule on a petition for rehearing it will be deemed denied “by operation of law” (that is, automatically without any order of any kind from the court). (CRC rule 8.268(b) and 8.268(c).)

The petition should not merely repeat information and argument that was covered by the appeal. Instead, it should focus on specific errors or contradictions in the opinion.

Normally the court does not consider points or issues being raised for the first time on rehearing, with two exceptions: when you are arguing the superior

court or the Court of Appeal did not have the power (jurisdiction) to handle the case, or when the Court of Appeal, in an exercise of its discretion, agrees to consider new materials (such as a new case) that were not included earlier.

Generally, the petition for rehearing should be directed at errors in the opinion: a major misstatement of fact, an error of law, major law or facts that were left out, and/or an important argument that was not included.

The petition for rehearing must be bound with orange covers. The original and four copies should be filed with the Court of Appeal along with Proof of Service ([Sample Form C](#)) on all parties; one copy should go to the superior court, and four copies to the Supreme Court. (CRC rules 8.212(c) & 8.40(b)(2)(A).) The Court of Appeal has jurisdiction (power to make rulings in the case) for 30 days from the date the opinion was filed or a request for publication was granted or an opinion was modified that changed the judgment. (CRC rule 8.264(b), 8.268(b).)

Review in the California Supreme Court

The Court of Appeal's decision becomes final 30 days after the filing of its opinion or the grant of publication or modification of the opinion with a change in judgment. A modification stating it does not change the judgment does not add time to the usual 30 days from filing of the opinion. A petition for review in the California Supreme Court must be filed within 10 calendar days after the decision becomes final. The first day starts with the 31st day. Thus, if the Court of Appeal's decision becomes final on a Friday, then Saturday and Sunday are days 1 and 2 of this 10-day period during which the petition for review must be filed. (CRC rules 8.264(b), 8.500(e).)

At the beginning of the petition you should start with a brief statement of the issues to be presented, with an explanation why this case is one the Supreme Court should take for review. (CRC rule 8.504(b).) If produced on a computer, the petition may not exceed 8,400 words or 30 pages if typewritten and must contain a certificate of compliance. The maximum length does not include exhibits and the copy of the Court of Appeal opinion that must be included. (CRC rule 8.504(b)(e).) Petitions for Review should have white covers, while Answer to Petitions for Review should have blue covers. An original and 13 copies must be filed in the Supreme Court. (CRC rule 8.40(b).) A proof of service must be attached to the original and all copies showing service on the division of the Court of Appeal which decided the case, all parties, and the trial judge.

An answer is not required unless the party opposing review wants to add an issue. An answer should be filed within 20 days after the petition is filed. (CRC rules 8.500(a)(2), (e)(4), (f).)

If the Supreme Court grants review, it may put off action while awaiting disposition of another case, or specify issues that are to be briefed. (CRC rules 8.512(c), 8.516(a).) Within 30 days the petitioner must file an opening brief or the same brief it filed in the Court of Appeal. The opposing party then has 30 days to file an answer or a copy of the brief filed in the Court of Appeal. A reply brief, if filed, is due within 20 days. (CRC rule 8.520(a).)

The Second District Court of Appeal does not accept Supreme Court filings. However, the Supreme Court has a clerk's office in the same building as the Court of Appeal in Los Angeles at 300 S. Spring St. Also, filings can be made directly with the Supreme Court at 350 McAllister St., San Francisco, CA, 94102. For further information concerning the Supreme Court, call (213) 830-7570 (Los Angeles) or (415) 865-7000 (San Francisco).

Review by the California Supreme Court is extremely rare. Unlike the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court is not required to hear all cases filed before it. The review process allows the Supreme Court to choose the cases it wants to hear. Generally, the granting of review is limited to cases that present issues that have never come before the courts before (issues of first impression), or that have an effect on large portion of the California population, or that have conflicting opinions in the various Courts of Appeal throughout the state. While it is possible that the Supreme Court will choose to review your case if you apply for review, you should not expect that they will hear it. In past years, only about 3% of petitions for review have been granted.¹¹

The Remittitur

The remittitur signals the end of the case. It is a document that says the review of the case is final and transfers the power of the reviewing courts (Court of Appeal and Supreme Court) back to the superior court so the superior court can follow up on what, if anything, still needs to be done to carry out the decision or decisions made by the reviewing courts. (CRC rule 8.272.)

If no petition for review is filed in the Supreme Court, the remittitur is issued 61 days after the filing of the opinion in the Court of Appeal (unless a request for publication was granted or there was a modification of the opinion resulting in a change in the judgment, in which cases the time is more than 61 days). At that time, the case becomes "final" in the reviewing courts. (CRC rules 8.264(b), 8.272(b), 8.512(c).)

¹¹ The Supreme Court of California, "Internal Operating Practices and Procedures of the California Supreme Court," 2003.

If the opinion said you were entitled to costs on appeal, you must file a memorandum of costs in the superior court within 40 days of the mailing of a copy of the remittitur. (CRC rule 8.276(d).) Among other things, this memorandum lists all the costs you are asking the court reimburse.

Sample Form C

PROOF OF SERVICE BY MAIL INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUPERIOR COURT OR COURT OF APPEAL

Each document you prepare must be served on all counsel and self-represented parties in your case. The document must be served by mail or hand-delivered by someone who is over the age of 18, not a party to the appeal, and a resident of the county where the mailing or delivery occurred.

This sample form is for service by mail, which is the easiest and most common method of service. If you wish to have the document delivered in person instead of mailed, you may adapt this sample form by replacing line 3 with language indicating the name of the person(s) to whom the document was delivered, the date and time of delivery, and the address where the delivery occurred. (For sample language for a hand-delivery, see page 4, line 3b of [Sample Form F](#).)

All documents must be served on all attorneys of record and any self-represented parties. **If the document is a brief, you must also serve one copy on the Superior Court and five copies on the California Supreme Court. If the document is a brief or petition, you must serve one copy on any public officer or agency required to be served by CRC rule 8.29.**

How to serve a document:

Make a copy of your document for each person or entity you must serve and enough copies for filing with the Court of Appeal. The person doing the mailing must complete the Proof of Service and attach an unsigned copy to each copy of the document being served. The person doing the service should mail a copy of the document to each person listed in the Proof of Service by depositing it in the United States mail with postage fully prepaid. The envelopes may be deposited in a United States post office or mailbox. The original document cannot be filed with the court until service has been completed by mailing the copies. After the envelopes have been deposited into the mail, the original Proof of Service should be signed and attached to the original document for filing.

Filling out the Proof of Service form:

Fill out the case name, Court of Appeal case number, and Superior Court case number. If you are filing the document in the Superior Court, use the Superior Court case name. If you are filing in the Court of Appeal, use the Court of Appeal case name.

Fill out the name of the non-party over the age of 18 who will be doing the mailing.

On line 2, specify the residential or business address of the person doing the mailing, and check the appropriate line for residence or business.

On line 3, specify the date of the mailing, the name of the document being served (for example, "Appellant's Opening Brief"), and the place where the mailing took place. List the full names and addresses of all the parties or their attorneys to whom the documents are being mailed. If the

Sample Form C

document is a brief, you must also serve the Superior Court, the California Supreme Court (5 copies). If the document is a brief or petition, you must serve any public officer or agency who must be served under CRC rule 8.29. These addresses must also be listed on the Proof of Service.

Date the Proof of Service, type or print the name of the person doing the mailing, and include the signature of the person doing the mailing.

An original Proof of Service must be attached to every original document filed with the court. A copy of the Proof of Service must be attached to every document served on all counsel and self-represented parties.

Sample Form C

PROOF OF SERVICE BY MAIL

CASE NAME: _____
COURT OF APPEAL CASE NUMBER: _____
SUPERIOR COURT CASE NUMBER: _____

I, _____ (*specify name of person doing service*), declare as follows:

1. At the time of service, I was at least 18 years of age and not a party to this legal action. I am a resident or employed in the county where the within-mentioned service occurred.

2. My residence or business address is (*specify*):

_____ residence _____ business

3. On _____ (*specify date*), I served the _____ (*specify document*) by United States mail as follows: I enclosed a copy in separate envelopes, with postage fully prepaid, addressed to each individual addressee named below, and I deposited each sealed envelope with the United States Postal Service in _____, California, for delivery as follows:

(*List addresses and send 1 copy to each party*)

California Supreme Court
350 McAllister Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
(*5 copies of briefs only*)

_____ Superior Court

(*List address of Superior Court and serve 1 copy of briefs only*)

(*List address of any public officer or agency required to be served by CRC rule 8.29 and serve 1 copy of briefs only.*)

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: _____

(*TYPE OR PRINT NAME*)

(*SIGNATURE OF DECLARANT*)

Sample Form F

NOTICE DESIGNATING RECORD ON APPEAL - INSTRUCTIONS

After filing your notice of appeal you have 10 days to tell the Superior Court what you want in the record that will be sent to the Court of Appeal; this is called the Notice Designating Record on Appeal. On the next few pages is a form to assist you in designating the record. What you choose to include in your record depends on the issues you wish to raise on appeal. This notice is filed in the Superior Court.

The Notice Designating Record on Appeal is available online in Adobe Acrobat PDF format and may be filled out electronically for free at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/forms.cgi>. Select "Appellate" forms, then click on Form APP-003.

Filling out the Notice Designating Record on Appeal:

Caption

- (1) In the "Attorney or Party Without Attorney" area at the top of the form, fill out your name, mailing address, and telephone number where you can be reached during the day.
- (2) In the "Superior Court of California, County of" area of the form, specify the county, address, and branch name of the superior court that made the order or judgment you are appealing.
- (3) In the next box on the form marked "PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER" and "DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT" fill out the plaintiff's name and defendant's name as they appear in the superior court case caption.
- (4) In the "Superior Court Case Number" box to the right, write the superior court case number.
- (5) In the "RE: Appeal filed on (*date*)" box, write the date the Notice of Appeal was filed.
- (6) In the "Court of Appeal Case Number (*if known*)" box immediately to the right, write the Court of Appeal case number, if you have it.
- (7) Specify the name of the county after the entry "TO: Clerk of the Superior Court of California County of (*name of county*)"
- (8) After the line marked "NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN", check the appropriate box to indicate whether you are the appellant (the appealing party) or respondent (the responding party).

Page 1, Entries 1-4

Check only one of the four boxes in entries 1-4.

Sample Form F

Check box "1" if you plan to prepare your own transcript (appendix) under California Rules of Court, rule 8.124 instead of having the Superior Court prepare a clerk's transcript and you don't want a reporter's transcript. If you check this box, there is no need to fill out pages two or three. Date and sign the bottom of this form and you are done.

Check box "2" if you plan to prepare your own transcript (appendix) under California Rules of Court, rule 8.124 instead of having the Superior Court prepare a clerk's transcript and you also want a reporter's transcript. If you check this box be sure to fill out the reporter's transcript section on page three; you do not have to fill out page two.

Check box "3" if you want the Superior Court to prepare a clerk's transcript but you don't want a reporter's transcript. If you check this box be sure to fill out the clerk's transcript section on page two; you do not have to fill out page three.

Check box "4" if you want the Superior Court to prepare both the clerk's transcript and the reporter's transcript. If you check this box be sure to fill out the clerk's transcript section on page two and the reporter's transcript section on page three.

At the bottom of page 1, write the current date on the form, type or print your name legibly, and sign the form.

Page Two (Notice Designating Clerk's Transcript):

Fill out this page only if you checked box "3" or "4" on page one; if you checked box "1" or "2" you do not need to fill out this page. The first seven documents are filled in for you. You may designate anything that was in the Superior Court file as part of your record on appeal, choosing as few or as many documents as you wish. What you choose to include in your record depends on the issues you wish to raise on appeal. You will need to make a \$100.00 deposit with the Superior Court if you select this option.

Page Three (Notice Designating Reporter's Transcript):

Fill out this page only if you checked box "2" or "4" on page one; if you checked box "1" or "3" you do not need to fill out this page. A reporter's transcript is a word for word typewritten record of everything that was said in court during a trial or hearing. For each day you want transcribed, write the reporter's name, the department of the Superior Court you were in, the date and the nature of the proceeding. The reporter's transcript costs money. You can ask the reporter to give you an estimate of what it will cost in advance or you can pay \$650 per day for days where there were more than three hours to be transcribed or \$350 per day where there were less than three hours to be transcribed.

Sample Form F

Page Four (Proof of Service)

Have someone over the age of 18 who is not a party to the action serve the Notice Designating Record on Appeal and fill out the Proof of Service on page 4 of the form. See instructions accompanying [Sample Form C](#).

Due: 10 days after filing Notice of Appeal

File: Original with Superior Court
(Bring an extra copy to be file-stamped
for your file.)

Serve: Court Reporter (if reporter's transcript requested)
All counsel
All self-represented parties

Notice: Please read *Information on Appeal Procedures for Unlimited Civil Cases* (Judicial Council form APP-001) before completing this form. This form must be filed in the superior court, not in the Court of Appeal.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that *(name)*:

The ☐ Appellant ☐ Respondent in the above case elects to proceed with the following record on appeal:

(check only one)

1. ☐ (Appendix Only; no Reporter's Transcript)
 - a. elects under rule 8.124 of the California Rules of Court to prepare own transcript in lieu of a court-prepared clerk's transcript.
AND
 - b. elects to have no reporter's transcript. *(Date and sign only.)*
2. ☐ (Appendix and Reporter's Transcript)
 - a. elects under rule 8.124 of the California Rules of Court to prepare own transcript in lieu of a court-prepared clerk's transcript.
AND
 - b. elects a reporter's transcript as designated on page 3. *(Fill out the reporter's transcript section on page 3.)*
3. ☐ (Clerk's Transcript Only; no Reporter's Transcript)
 - a. elects under rule 8.120 of the California Rules of Court to proceed with a clerk's transcript as designated on page 2. *(Fill out the clerk's transcript section on page 2.)*
AND
 - b. elects to have no reporter's transcript.
4. ☐ (Clerk's and Reporter's Transcripts)
 - a. elects under rule 8.120 of the California Rules of Court to proceed with a clerk's transcript as designated on page 2. *(Fill out the clerk's transcript section on page 2*
AND
 - b. elects a reporter's transcript as designated on page 3. *(Fill out the reporter's transcript section on page 3.)*

Date:

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF PARTY OR ATTORNEY)

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| CASE NAME: | CASE NUMBER: |
|------------|--------------|

NOTICE DESIGNATING CLERK'S TRANSCRIPT

(Cal. Rules of Court, rule 8.120)

- A. It is requested that the following documents in the superior court file be included in the clerk's transcript (*give the specific title of each document, an accurate description, and the date of filing*):

Document Title and DescriptionDate of Filing

(NOTE: Items 1–7 are required to be a part of the clerk's transcript and will automatically be included.)

1. Notice of appeal
2. Notice designating record on appeal (*this document*)
3. Judgment or order appealed from
4. Notice of entry of judgment (*if any*)
5. Notice of intention to move for new trial or motion to vacate the judgment, for judgment notwithstanding the verdict, or for reconsideration of an appealed order (*if any*)
6. Ruling on item 5
7. Register of actions (*if any*)
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.

- B. It is requested that the following EXHIBITS admitted into evidence or marked for identification be copied into clerk's transcript on appeal (*check only one box*):

1. ☐ All Exhibits
2. ☐ Specific Exhibits (*give the exhibit number [for example, Plaintiff's #1, Defendant's B, Respondent's A], a brief description, and admission status.*):

☐ See additional pages.

CASE NAME:

CASE NUMBER:

NOTICE DESIGNATING REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT
(Cal. Rules of Court, rule 8.130)

Reporter's NameDept.DateNature of Proceedings

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

☐

See additional pages.

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| CASE NAME: | CASE NUMBER: |
|------------|--------------|

NOTICE TO PARTIES: A copy of this document must be mailed or personally delivered to the other party or parties to this appeal. A PARTY TO THE APPEAL MAY NOT PERFORM THE MAILING OR DELIVERY HIMSELF OR HERSELF. A person who is at least 18 years old and is not a party to this appeal must complete the information below and mail (by first-class mail, postage prepaid) or personally deliver the front and back of this document. When the front and back of this document have been completed and a copy mailed or personally delivered, the original may then be filed with the court.

PROOF OF SERVICE

☐ Mail ☐ Personal Service

1. At the time of service I was at least 18 years of age and **not a party to this legal action.**
2. My residence or business address is (*specify*):
3. I mailed or personally delivered a copy of the *Notice Designating Record on Appeal (Unlimited Civil Case)* as follows (*complete either a or b*):
 - a. ☐ **Mail.** I am a resident of or employed in the county where the mailing occurred.
 - (1) I enclosed a copy in an envelope **and**
 - (a) ☐ **deposited** the sealed envelope with the United States Postal Service, with the postage fully prepaid.
 - (b) ☐ **placed** the envelope for collection and mailing on the date and at the place shown in items below, following our ordinary business practices. I am readily familiar with this business's practice for collecting and processing correspondence for mailing. On the same day that correspondence is placed for collection and mailing, it is deposited in the ordinary course of business with the United States Postal Service, in a sealed envelope with postage fully prepaid.
 - (2) The envelope was addressed and mailed as follows:
 - (a) Name of person served:
 - (b) Address on envelope:
 - (c) Date of mailing:
 - (d) Place of mailing (*city and state*):
 - b. ☐ **Personal delivery.** I personally delivered a copy as follows:
 - (1) Name of person served:
 - (2) Address where delivered:
 - (3) Date delivered:
 - (4) Time delivered:

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date:

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF DECLARANT)

Sample Form S

PETITION FOR REHEARING - INSTRUCTIONS

After the opinion has been filed in your case, or a request for publication granted or modification of opinion changing judgment, you have 15 days to ask the Court of Appeal for a rehearing. (CRC, rule 8.268(b)(1).) You ask for a rehearing if you feel that the opinion misstates the facts, has an error of law, has a significant omission in the facts or law or failed to consider an important argument. There is an automatic right to rehearing if the Court of Appeal makes a decision based on an issue that was not proposed or briefed by any party. (Government Code section 68081.) The petition for rehearing has an orange cover. An original plus four copies of the petition for rehearing must be filed in the Court of Appeal. A proof of service showing service on the Supreme Court, the Superior Court and all counsel and self-represented parties must accompany the petition for rehearing.

Filling out the Cover Page:

- (1) The plaintiff's name as it appears on your Superior Court caption.
- (2) Whether plaintiff is "appellant" or "respondent".
- (3) The defendant's name as it appears on your Superior Court caption.
- (4) Whether defendant is "appellant" or "respondent".
- (5) The Court of Appeal case number.
- (6) The Superior Court number from your Superior Court case.
- (7) Write the county where the Superior Court case originated.
- (8) The name of the Superior Court judge.
- (9) Your name.
- (10) Your mailing address.
- (11) Your city, state and zip code.
- (12) Your telephone number where you can be reached during the day.

Filling out the Petition for Rehearing:

- (1) Your name.
- (2) Your mailing address.

Sample Form S

- (3) Your city, state and zip code.
- (4) Your telephone number where you can be reached during the day.
- (5) The plaintiff's name as it appears on your Superior Court caption.
- (6) Whether plaintiff is "appellant" or "respondent".
- (7) The defendant's name as it appears on your Superior Court caption.
- (8) Whether defendant is "appellant" or "respondent".
- (9) The Court of Appeal case number.
- (10) The Superior Court number from your Superior Court case.
- (11) Write whether you are "appellant" or "respondent".
- (12) Your name.
- (13) The date the opinion was filed.
- (14) Why you think there should be a rehearing.
- (15) The arguments in support of your reason why there should be a rehearing.
- (16) Write "affirm", "reverse" or "modify", however you think the court should have ruled in its opinion.
- (17) Current date.
- (18) Your signature.
- (19) Type or legibly print your name.

Due: 15 days after opinion filed, or request for publication granted or modification of opinion changing judgment.

Cover Color: Orange

File: Original plus 4 copies with Court of Appeal with Proof of Service

Provide an extra copy to be file-stamped for your file.

Serve: California Supreme Court - 5 copies
Superior Court - 1 copy
All counsel
All self-represented parties

Sample Form S

COURT OF APPEAL, SECOND APPELLATE DISTRICT

DIVISION [Insert division #]

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

(1) _____,

Plaintiff and (2) _____,

v.

(3) _____,

Defendant and (4) _____.

(5) _____.

(Superior Court No. (6) _____)

Appeal From the Superior Court of (7) _____ County
Honorable (8) _____, Judge

PETITION FOR REHEARING

(9)

(10)

(11)

(12)

Self-Represented

Sample Form S

(1)
(2)
(3)
(4)

COURT OF APPEAL, SECOND APPELLATE DISTRICT
DIVISION [Insert division #]
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

(5) _____,

Plaintiff and (6) _____,

v.

(7) _____,

Defendant and (8) _____.

(9) _____.

(Superior Court No. (10) _____)

PETITION FOR REHEARING

(11) _____, (12) _____, seeks rehearing of the
court's opinion in the above case filed on (13) _____. The rehearing is necessary
because (14) _____.

(15)

Sample Form S

CONCLUSION

Petitioner requests that rehearing be granted and that the court (16) _____, the judgment.

DATED: (17) _____

(18) _____

Signature

(19) _____

Type or Print Name

An original Proof of Service must be attached to every original document filed with the court. A copy of the Proof of Service must be attached to every document served on all counsel and self-represented parties. (See [Sample Form C](#).)